



News from the Hill...

St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 January 2017

PASTORAL PONDERERS

As Advent is a time of new beginnings, preparing for the birth of Christ and the coming of God's realm in wholeness, we start a journey together.

Our journey is one that leads to the manger of Bethlehem, where with Mary, Joseph, angels, and shepherd's we will worship the Beloved and Holy Child, Jesus. As a pilgrimage, we will follow Jesus in his ministry and teachings. We will stand in the shadow of the cross on Golgotha and bask in the light of resurrection at the Savior's empty tomb. And, we will find that God's Spirit is in us and with us and bringing us into the unity of community.

Yet, our journey as pastor and congregation, stretches back to bring those wondrous events present, while living in the present in seeking the future.

We share the glory and sheer grandeur of such things as well as sharing in the challenges and struggles we find in each day. Together as a people who walk in the way of Christ and follow God's will we shall have wonderful times of celebration, glad and happy times of laughter, common times of being human in our brokenness, and times of working to overcome controversy and conflict. In each of these will we remember the words heralded by angels on that first Christmas night— "Glory to God in the highest, and peace good will to all."

Those angelic words the very things that are born and given in love.

Love came down at Christmas
Love, a lovely love divine.
Love was born at Christmas
Stars and angels gave the sign.

Love came down at Christmas
Love, a lovely love divine.
Love was born at Christmas
Stars and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token
Love be yours, and love be mine.
Love to God and all of us
Love for plea and gift a sign.

Love came down at Christmas
Love, a lovely love divine.
Love was born at Christmas
Stars and angels gave the sign.

So, it is love that we share, love that we honor, love that we offer, love that we are. In love, we move into each new moment. And, "they will know we are Christians by our love."

Forward in love,
Pastor Mary

Consistory News

The Consistory met on Tuesday, December 13th, 2016 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November Consistory meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for November 2016.

Operating Fund	November 2016	2016 YTD	November 2015	2015 YTD
Income	\$12,449.34	\$111,827.32	\$17,184.07	\$121,199.34
Expenses	\$4,221.09	\$116,466.65	\$16,557.52	\$149,283.74
Income vs. Expenses	\$8,228.25	(\$4,639.33)	\$626.55	(\$28,084.40)

- Benevolence received for November was \$237.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$3722.00
- The main differences in the expenses from this year and last year are:
 - o Pastor salary package: \$4,198.74 in 2015, zero in 2016 for the month of November.
 - o In November 2015 wrote a check to Feeg Construction for \$8,250 for windows in the sexton house.

Christmas Eve services were held at 3pm, 7pm, and 10pm. Communion was served at all three services. We hope that you were able celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior at one or all of these services. The next communion will be January 1st.

Reports from the various committees were reviewed. Their activities can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter.

We would like to welcome Pastor Mary Lake-Dillensnyder and her husband Gary to the Hill Church family, and look forward to our ministry together. We are excited to see what God has in store for us as we grow closer to Him together.

2017 Budget: We held our annual budget meeting on December 11th and the congregation has voted to accept the budget as proposed. If you would like a copy of the budget or have any questions pertaining to it, please see one of the consistory members.

Mission Team Outreach: The Mission Team would like to reach out to our local church community. If you or someone you know within our local church community could use a helping hand with a project, such as yard work or small repair jobs, please feel free to drop a note in the offering plate on Sunday or contact Mark or Connie Hile.

Search Committee: We are now in the process of forming a Search Committee that will be responsible for the search and call process to secure a permanent pastor for Hill Church. Our goal is to have this committee fully established by the beginning of January in order to keep this process moving forward. We also would like to thank everyone who has expressed interest in being a part of this committee. As we know from previous pastor searches, this is a very challenging task and we ask that you keep this committee in your prayers.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for January will be provided by Terry Shane and Arlan Schaeffer. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00pm.

In Christ, Your Consistory: Anita Brady, Dottie Fronheiser, Rick Furches, Bonnie Helmick, Mark Hile, Ray Kochey, Arlan Schaeffer, Terry Shane, Clarence Weller, Matt Weller, and Pastor Mary Lake-Dillensnyder.

News from the Women's Guild

Women's Guild had a fun and enjoyable time at our annual Christmas dinner at Giannotti's this year. We also hope everyone has a very happy and healthy New Year!



 **Choir Notes**

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas Cantata. What a blessing and joy it brought to our congregation!



Wednesday, January 4 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM
Wednesday, January 11 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM
Wednesday, January 18- Sr. Choir 7:00 PM
Wednesday, January 25 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM



Elmer Miller
Organist/Music Director
610-367-5613 or e-mail elmerhm@dejazzd.com



Sunday School News

Thank you to everyone who picked out an angel from our Angel Tree and bought a gift to make someone else's Christmas extra special. Thanks also to Tracey Kolb for organizing it and delivering the gifts in time for Christmas!

Souper Bowl Sunday is coming up in February...be sure to join us for lots of tasty soups!

Join us for Sunday School at 8:30 am...We have a class for you!

Our next leadership meeting will be on January 2nd at 7:00 pm.



NEWS FROM THE PARK COMMITTEE



Thanks to all who helped out on work days throughout 2016...we will be taking a break with no scheduled work days over the winter.



CEMETERY BOARD NEWS

The next Cemetery Board Meeting is on Tues., Jan. 17th at 7:30 PM at St. John Hill UCC. We will be auditing the books at 6:30 PM before the meeting.

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION!

Dear friends and family of St. John-Hill UCC—

Coming to minister with and among you has been such a wonderful blessing. Our move was made so much easier by the fine people who came out and brought our furniture and belongings on two days. What a fine expression of community and caring for one another.

When we arrived at the parsonage, we discovered that there was a full pantry of food with meals for a week or longer. In addition, the kitchen and bathrooms were with cleaning and maintenance products. This kindness is such a gift of blessing in our transition to a new location and home.

Soon thereafter we had the excellent opportunity to join in worship and a reception of welcoming. You were all so graceful and the food and fellowship was so very enjoyed. Our journey to Christmas to worship the Christ Child at his birth could not have had a better beginning. Blessing upon blessing has been found and received with joyful hearts.

We could not be happier to be your parsonage family and to be here to share the ministry Christ has given us. Thank you all. Our thanksgiving to God is in each breath and moment of our new home and church family.

With gratitude and joy—
Pastor Mary and Gary

OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR

The Rev. Mary Lake Dillensnyder—Pastor Mary was born and raised in Morehead, KY, where her father and mother were both teachers. Her father was a professor of science at Morehead State University, and her mother a teacher of art in the local public school system. Mary was the fourth of five children with two of each, brothers and sisters.

Graduating from Morehead State University, majoring in both psychology and speech, and already serving as a Youth Pastor in her home church, Mary studied at Lexington Theological Seminary and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree.

Shortly thereafter she was ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was the first woman to her the sole pastor of a congregation in the state of Kentucky.

Her ministry has been shared with churches, non-profit service agencies, and in hospice palliative care as a chaplain and Administrator of Volunteers. From Morehead-First Christian Church, to Ewing Christian Church (Ewing, KY) to Mill Creek Christian Church (May's Lick, KY) to Lincoln Heights Missionary Baptist Church (Cincinnati, OH) to Ezel Presbyterian Church (PCUSA—Ezel, KY) to the Learning Store to Vitas Hospice in three different states to Children and Youth Program Director (Community, Youth and Women's Alliance [CYWA]-Coatesville, PA) to Volunteer Assistant Pastor Haws Avenue United Methodist Church (Norristown, PA) to Gulph Mills UCC (Upper Merion Twp., PA) to Holistic Care Hospice (Bryn Mawr, PA) and now to St. John-Hill UCC, Mary has always learned from the people she served and has sought to be a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ in sharing her journey with others.

Mary is married to the Rev. Gary Lake Dillensnyder, an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church since 1982. They are proud to have in their family four adorable puppies, Mollie Mae, Webster Andrew, Dollie Jayne, and Maggie Lynne (two Bichon Frise, a West Highlander White Terrier, and a Shih Tzu).

We are all so glad to be here and look forward to the times we will share with you. May God bless our faith journey and lead us in our ministry together.

Announcements from the Hill

ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

The 2017 sign up charts for “Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship” are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$25 for flowers and \$15 for bulletins. As always, we greatly appreciate and need your stewardship. When signing up, please include with your name, how you would like the “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” to appear in the bulletin. Thank you!



GROCERY CARDS

Don't forget grocery cards for Giant, Redner's and Weis Markets are available for purchase. They may be used towards groceries, gas and pharmacy purchases and make terrific gifts! We receive 5% for every card you purchase which will be used to support our Church Missions program. See Connie Hile to purchase your cards today!

Fundraiser



Contact our sexton, Charles Anhalt, for discounted in-house tile and carpet cleaning. 20% of all proceeds received will be donated to our church in honor of you. Contact Charles at 484-333-1424.

Weekly Multi-Service Collection

We continue to support our local community through the Boyertown Multi-Service. For the month of January we will collect items most needed on their shelves. Please do not feel like you have to contribute but if you can, know it is greatly appreciated by those who are in need in Boyertown! Items needed are:

- Bottles of Juice (approx. 64 oz or larger)
- Coffee
- Hamburger Helper
- Oatmeal (any type)
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Bar Soap
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Soap
- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- Napkins
- Toilet Paper

2017 Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Second Sunday Coffee Fellowship hosts are needed. Please consider signing up for a date on the new sign up sheet located on the Sunday School Hallway bulletin board.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUNDAY WORSHIP

In the event of inclement weather on Sunday mornings, announcements regarding the Hill Church Sunday schedule will be given in the following ways:



Church website: <http://www.stjohnhillucc.org>
Church telephone answering machine: 610-367-8114
WFMZ TV Storm Center – Broadcast Channel 69
(May be a different channel on your system)



Also, please keep in mind that power outages may affect our ability to use certain of the above resources, and the ability of some members to have access to those outlets. So we encourage church members to be in touch with one another to help spread the word about possible cancellations and changes. Thank you.

St. John-Hill U.C.C.

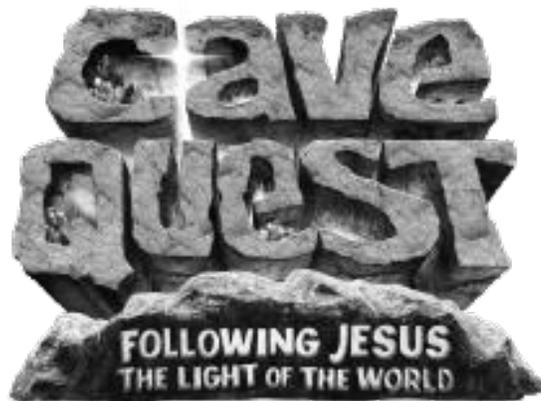
VBS Reunion

Sunday, January 22, 2017

4:00 pm -5:00 pm

Ages: 3 through 12

(In case of inclement weather, VBS Reunion will be held 1/29/17.)



Come for an hour to rejoin with your fellow Cave Questers by enjoying a story, a game, a snack and a craft.

Possibly relive some of 'Crazy Clark's' adventures.

Parents and/or grandparents are encouraged to stay and participate.

Register at www.stjohnhillucc.org or call 610-367-8114 for more information. Registration is requested but not required.

St. John-Hill UCC

620 Hill Church Road

Boyertown, PA 19512



Books of the Bible

J J R Z B Y S R E B M U N W F
V O Z E M T I M O T H Y I C W
L E E P N O Z H A I D A B O P
S L H H W E H T T A M C N K S
N S N A I N O L A S S E H T A
O S A N P R O V E R B S D S L
I N U I B G S I S E N E G B M
T A H A I R A H C E Z S T N S
A I S H S N A I H T N I R O C
L T O H O S E A S E G D U J E
E A J D E U T E R O N O M Y N
V L M T F C H R O N I C L E S
E A E W X S N A I S S O L O C
R G Y E H E B R E W S Y G B Q
A M O S S N A I S E H P E A X

AMOS
CHRONICLES
COLOSSIANS
CORINTHIANS
DEUTERONOMY
EPHESIANS
GALATIANS
GENESIS
HEBREWS
HOSEA
JOEL
JOSHUA
JUDGES
MATTHEW
NUMBERS
OBADIAH
PROVERBS
PSALMS
REVELATIONS
THESSALONIANS
TIMOTHY
ZECHARIAH
ZEPHANIAH



Church Contact Information

Re. Mary Lake-Dillensnyder - Interim Pastor

Rev. Jim Rogers – Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Elmer Miller – Musical Director/
Organist

Mrs. Nikki Weller – Church Secretary

Mr. Charles Anhalt - Sexton

Mrs. Wendy Shane - Church Treasurer

Church Telephone: 610-367-8114

Church Website: www.stjohnhillucc.org



JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	2 7 pm Sunday School Meeting	3 7 pm Women's Guild Meeting	4 7 pm Sr. Choir	5	6	7
8 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	9 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Upper Room Bible Study	10 7 pm Consistory Meeting	11 7 pm Sr. Choir	12	13	14
15 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17 6:30 pm Cemetery Board Auditing 7:30 pm Cemetery Board Meeting at St. John-Hill	18 7 pm Sr. Choir	19	20	21
22 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 4 pm VBS Reunion	23	24	25 7 pm Sr. Choir	26	27	28
29 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	30	31				